

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Christie Whitman today signed the following legislation:

A-1447, sponsored by Assembly Speaker Jack Collins, requires legislative counsel to provide prime sponsors of legislation with advice of legal defects at the same time the counsel provides a written response to a request for a confidential written opinion on a bill.

A-170, sponsored by Assembly Members John Kelly (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Louis Romano (D-Hudson), eliminates the dual-licensing requirement for rooming and boarding houses and it increases the fee that may be charged by the Department of Community Affairs to license rooming and boarding houses.

A-1670, sponsored by Assemblywomen Marion Crecco (R-Essex/Passaic) and Charlotte Vandervalk (R-Bergen) and Senator Diane Allen (R- Burlington/Camden), establishes the neighborhood-Based Child Care Incentive Demonstration Program. This program expands the availability of safe, affordable child care to low and middle income families by encouraging the use of volunteer networks in the delivery of neighborhood-based child care services. The demonstration program, administered by the Department of Human Services, will operate in five counties, two of which will be in municipalities targeted by the Governor's Urban Coordinating Council.

A-2023, sponsored by Assembly Members Arline Friscia (D-Middlesex) and Reed Gusciora (D-Mercer), requires public employers to promptly pay amounts due certain employee annuity programs to ensure there is no loss of interest earnings . This bill would ensure that amounts payable by an employer on behalf of an employee be transmitted on, and credited as of, the fifth day after the employee is paid for that pay period.

A-3025, sponsored by Assemblymen Jerry Green (D- Middlesex/Somerset/Union) and John Kelly (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Senators Andrew Ciesla (R-Monmouth/Ocean) and John Matheussen (R-Camden/Gloucester), makes various changes to the "Map Filing Law." The bill eliminates the requirement that outside tract line monuments be installed by the developer prior to filing a map and it requires the developer to post a guarantee, to ensure that that developer eventually installs the outbound monuments.

A-307, sponsored by Assemblywoman Nia Gill (D-Essex) and LeRoy J. Jones, Jr. (D-Essex), allows senior citizens with personal lines of insurance to designate third parties to receive insurance cancellation and nonrenewal notices. Envelopes including such information must be labeled clearly "Important Insurance Policy Information; Open Immediately."

A-2636, sponsored by Assembly Members Anthony Impreveduto (D- Bergen/Hudson) and Joseph R. Malone III (R- Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean), eliminates prohibition against a school official action on certain matters. The bill specifically defines "personal involvement" and provides that no school official can act in his official capacity in any matter where he or a member of his immediate family has a personal involvement that is or creates some benefit to the official or his family member.

A-2050, sponsored by Assembly Members Nicholas Felice (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Carol Murphy (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Senator Peter Inverso (R-Mercer/Middlesex), clarifies sales and use tax imposition upon prepaid telephone calling cards. The bill requires that sellers collect sales tax for the value of the card and remit it to the state.

A-2255, sponsored by Assemblymen Christopher "Kip" Bateman (R- Morris/Somerset) and Neil Cohen (D-Union) and Senator Peter Inverso (R-Mercer/Middlesex), makes certain changes in the "New Jersey Licensed Lenders Act." The bill changes the definition of "principal amount" as applied to secondary mortgage loans. The bill prohibits including the amount of discount points in the amount to be financed. In addition, the bill increases the cap on the application fee for sales finance companies from \$300 to \$500.

A-2302, sponsored by Assemblymen Nicholas Asselta (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Jack Gibson (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Senators James Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and John Matheussen (R-Camden/Gloucester), provides immunities and other benefits to personnel who participate in search and rescue teams. The bill also ensures that members of search and rescue teams accrue their employment benefits while working with the teams.

A-2393, sponsored by Assemblymen Christopher "Kip" Bateman (R- Morris/Somerset) and Neil Cohen (D-Union) and Senator Walter Kavanaugh (R-Morris/Somerset), simplifies certain banking procedures to conform the state's laws to federal ones.

A-2469, sponsored by Assembly Speaker Jack Collins (R-Salem/Cumberland/Gloucester) and Assemblyman Neil Cohen (D-Union), makes permanent the \$5 instant rebate program for purchases of trigger locks that the Governor introduced as part of her anti- school violence initiatives.

A-2806, sponsored by Assemblymen Alan Augustine (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Christopher "Kip" Bateman (R- Morris/Somerset) and Senator Walter Kavanaugh (R-Morris/Somerset), provides standards for retention of records of certain financial institutions. The bill will assist regulators in their supervisory role as well as prevent fraud against financial institutions.

A-3040, sponsored by Assemblymen Paul DiGaetano (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Neil Cohen (D-Union), clarifies the tenant rebate provisions of the NJ SAVER and Homestead Rebate Act. The clarification ensures that benefits provided to tenants who are 65 years of age or older, or who are eligible to claim a deduction as a blind or disabled taxpayer, are equal to the benefits provided to other eligible tenants.

A-722, sponsored by Assembly Members Paul Kramer (R-Mercer/Middlesex) and Barbara Wright (R-Mercer/Middlesex), establishes a regulatory scheme for certain private facilities under contract with

the Department of Corrections. The bill enhances communications between halfway houses and municipal officials and residents and supplements the criteria used to determine whether an inmate is eligible for a halfway house. Primarily, the bill establishes: community relations advisory boards, a procedure for notifying local law enforcement officials of an inmates transfer to their community, supplements the department's regulations regarding the procedure for reporting an escape and codifies and supplements the department's regulations that set forth criteria used to determine whether an inmate is eligible for a halfway house.